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SOURCE Schweizerische Allgemeine Volks-Zeitung.

CALLS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO RUMANIA
"REAL MASTER," PAUKER OUT

KAFITARIDZE SIGNS MINISTRY DECREES -- Zofingen, Schweizerische Allgemeine Volks-Zeitung, 3 Mar 51

While to the world outside Rumania, Ana Pauker, Minister of Foreign Affairs, still personifies the country's Red Dictator, actually the reins of government were taken out of her hands quite some time ago. It is rumored that Pauker's unofficial, but complete, downfall is closely connected with the arrest in Switzerland of agent Vitianu.

Today, the real master of Rumania is Soviet Ambassador Kaftaridze. A typical Georgian and a friend of Stalin, he is possessed of dangerous pride and cruel intelligence. Constantly guarded by his two adjutants, Georgian giants like himself, he spends 14 hours a day at his colossal desk. No decree is issued by a ministry and no order passed by police headquarters without having been examined and initialed by Kaftaridze.

Compared with him, Gheorgiu-Dej, Secretary-General of the Rumanian Communist Party, and even Defense Minister Bodnaras, are mere subordinates. In recent weeks, following the arrest of anti-Communist agitators on Danube ships, Kaftaridze has personally taken charge of counterintelligence operations.

Emil Bodnaras, Minister of Defense, has Sovietized the Rumanian Army. Except for a tiny red, gold, and blue ribbon attached to their insignia, Rumanian soldiers could not be distinguished from those of the USSR.

There is a tremendous difference between the pay of officers and that of enlisted men. Lieutenants receive five times, majors ten times, and higher ranking officers up to 20 times the pay of privates. The officers speak mostly Russian, thereby bettering their chances for promotion. They seem to be the only individuals to whom the regime has allotted a small measure of happiness.

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LOW MORALE IN BUCHAREST -- Zofingen, Schweizerische Allgemeine Volks-Zeitung,
3 Mar 51

Bucharest is rapidly changing from a city of gaiety to one of deep gloom. The new regime is responsible for the new look.

As early as 0700 hours women can be seen lining up in front of food shops, with the fatalistic stoicism so characteristic of citizens of totalitarian countries. Bread rationing, recently reimposed, is very strict and only on rare occasions is it relaxed for the benefit of those who have funds, for corruption has not yet been stamped out entirely.

Among the civilian population, persons doing heavy work fare best, with assured rations of 750 grams of wheat bread a day, one kilogram of meat a week, and one kilogram of sugar, 750 grams of oil, and 1 1/2 kilograms of noodles and cereal products a month. Average workers rate only one-half kilogram of meat a week, and white-collar workers and so-called intellectuals have to get along on 300 grams a week.

On the other hand, the masses are no worse off than they were under King Carol, 10-15 years ago. They do not look undernourished and their surly expression seems to stem from inner dissatisfaction rather than from economic suffering. A young woman who works in a cigarette factory stated that she earns 8,000 lei a month, an amount that will buy a winter coat, 200 liters of milk, or two Soviet, i.e., East German, wrist watches. She claimed that her earnings will feed and clothe her, but that she finds life dull and cheerless, without hope of any change.

Monotony and boredom may well become dangerous enemies of the people's democracies.

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